(b) if so, the reaction of Government on such criticism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Greenpeace, an international environmental group, have been critical of India's non-proliferation record only on the criterion that India has not signed the NPT.

(b) Government rejects such criticism.

Visit of ICRC team to Jails in Jammu and Kashmir

3591. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) to visit the jails and detention centres and to have an access to detainees in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what is the purpose of ICRC's visit to the jails and detention centres in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) what are the reasons for allowing the ICRC to visit these places and what are the political implications involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Pursuant to the request of the International Committee of Red Cross, a survey team had been permitted to visit Jammu and Kashmir in March 1994. Thereafter, certain proposals had been given by ICRC regarding further access to the State, including visit to jails and detention centres. These are under discussion with the ICRC.

Detention of Defence Personnel in Pakistan

3592. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian military personnel are still in Pakistan as POWS taken during the Indo-Pak conflicts in 1965 and 1971;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for their detention in Pakistan as POWs; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government for their repatriation to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (d) According to available information, at present 54 missing Indian defence personnel are believed to be in custody in Pakistan. Our defence personnel have been missing since the 1965 and 1971 conflicts.

The question of the early release and repatriation of all Indian defence personnel under detention in Pakistan has repeatedly been taken up with the Government of Pakistan. These efforts continue. The Government of Pakistan, however, maintains that there are no Indian defence personnel in its custody.

Secret Meeting on No-First-use of Nuclear Weapons

3593. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a secret meeting sponsored by Government was recently held between the official representatives of India, Pakistan, United States of America and China and non-Governmental expets on first-use of nuclear weapons;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the outcome thereof?